

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9934

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3901

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN RO
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

FOR ANDREWS FROM SIMONS, EUR/EE THREE COPIES ONLY

1. NSF/NCST RELATIONSHIP. POSSIBLY FEELING EFFECTS OF SUN, NCST COUNSELOR MANZATU AT ITALIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION OFFERED AMBASSADOR THEOR THAT HUNGARIAN ON NSF STAFF (PRESUMABLY HE MEANT DR. CHARLES ZALAR) IS ENGAGED IN PLOT TO TAKE NSF FUNDS AWAY FROM ROMANIA FOR HUNGARIAN PROGRAM. WHILE AMBASSADOR FORCEFULLY REBUTTED THIS AS FANTASY, IT TESTIFIES TO DANGEROUSLY DETERIORATING QUALITY OF NSF/NCST RELATIONSHIP, AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR AMBASSADOR TO CALL ON URSU AND IF POSSIBLE MRS. CEAUSESCU TO STOP ROT ON ROMANIAN SIDE; AT MAY 29 URSU DINNER FOR IREX, HE COUNCARAGED CALL ON MRS. CEAUSESCU. FOR MEETING WITH URSU, AMBASSADOR WILL NEED MINUTES OF NSF/NCST MAY 11-12 REVIEW MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, LETTER FROM NSF OUTLINING ITS POSITION AND WHAT IT IS PREPARED TO DO IN FUTURE VIS-A-VIS NSF/NCST COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. JAY BLOWERS REPORTS THAT HE PREPARED DRAFTS OF BOTH DOCUMENTS AND LEFT THEM WITH DR. ZALAR WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD BE APPROVED BY DR. BARTOCHA AND SENT TO US SOONEST AND TELEGRAPHICALLY IF POSSIBLE. WOULD APPRECIATE CHECK ON STATUS OF THIS.

2. SCIENCE ATTACHE POSITION IN BUCHAREST. RELATED
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QUESTION IS NEED FOR DEFINITIVE DECISION SOON AND IN WRITING FROM NSF ABOUT CONTINUED FUNDING FOR SCIENCE ATTACHE POSITION AFTER SEPTEMBER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DR. BARTOCHA HAS SAID HE HAS NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE WITH CONTINUANCE BUT MUST RESERVE FINAL DECISION FOR MONTH OR TWO TO SEE HOW SITUATION DEVELOPS. THIS PUTS AMBASSADOR AND JAY BLOWERS IN UNTENABLE POSITION OF VIRTUALLY GOING

TO WIRE WITHOUT DECISION BEING MADE. COULD YOU PRODUCE
ON THIS?

3. CASTRO SITUATION. IF IT COMES TO REPANELLING FOR EMIL,
POINT SHOULD BE MADE THAT HE HAS 90 DAYS OF ACCUMULATED
HOME LEAVE, AND THUS TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR EXTENSION:
EXTENSION TO EARLY JULY 1979, WITH HOME LEAVE THEREAFTER;
OR, EXTENSION TO MID-AUGUST 1979, WITH HOME LEAVE SOMETIME
THIS WINTER. AS I NOTED IN MY JUNE 6 CONVERSATION WITH
INTS, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE JAY BURGESS HERE FOR AN
EXTENDED PERIOD WE BELIEVE WOULD BE VALUABLE BOTH TO HIM
AND TO US, POSSIBLY BEGINNING WITH COUNCIL MEETING LATER
THIS MONTH, WHATEVER DETERMINATION IS MADE ON LAMBERT/
STRAIN/CASTRO SITUATION. FINALLY, WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED
THAT ECONOMIC ANALYST MERRITT C. BRAGDON WILL BE
AVAILABLE IN THE AREA THIS SUMMER AND WOULD LIKE TO
INCLUDE ROMANIA IN HIS ITINERARY: WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME
THAT, ON CONDITION THAT HE BE PREPARED TO SPEND SOME TIME
AT EMBASSY ON ACTUAL ECONOMIC WORK, WHICH SHOULD ALSO
PERMIT HIM IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL OF ADEQUATE VARIETY. GIVE
US A READING ON THIS POSSIBILITY SO WE CAN GO AHEAD WITH
FORMAL RESPONSE; IT SOUNDED GOOD TO VISITING ECONOMIC
ANALYST BOB KOVACH LAST WEEK.
AGGREY

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